

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 146043

61
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SNM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN), (HUNTER, CARRIE)

SUBJECT:KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REFS: A) KINSHASA 5490; B) DAR 2182; C) STATE 127474;

D) STATE 125822; E) KINSHASA 4554; F) KINSHASA 4612;

G) KINSHASA 4731

1. DEPARTMENT IS GREATLY CONCERNED AT INFORMATION CONTAINED DAR 2182 AND KINSHASA 5490, CONCERNING ACTIVITY OF ZAIRIAN FORCES IN AREA WHERE STUDENTS ARE BEING HELD. THREAT TO STUDENTS' SAFETY, OF COURSE, COULD BE REAL AND IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 146043

2. IN RESPONSE PREVIOUS EMBASSY APPROACHES GOZ HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD TAKE NO MILITARY ACTION TO ENDANGER STUDENTS (REFTELS E, F, G). IN VIEW JUNE 17 LETTER FROM STUDENTS, HOWEVER, SUBJECT SHOULD AGAIN BE DISCUSSED WITH GOZ ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

3. DUTCH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN DAR HAVE JOINTLY RECEIVED LETTER DATED JUNE 17 FROM STUDENTS WHO STILL IN CAPTIVITY OF PRP. LETTER STATES THAT SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL IN AREA, BOATS WITH ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS HAVE APPROACHED VERY CLOSE AND HAVE MADE A RECONNAISSANCE OF THE AREA. SUCH

ACTIVITY IS MAKING PRP VERY EDGY. PRP HAS EMPHATICALLY TOLD STUDENTS THAT SHOULD THESE CLOSE APPROACHES CONTINUE STUDENTS WILL BE KILLED. STUDENTS CONCLUDE WITH STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS THAT PRP WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THREAT IF BOATS CONTINUE THEIR CLOSE APPROACHES.

4. GOZ SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM WITH PRP REPS AT THEIR INITIATIVE. DURING THIS VERY DELICATE PERIOD, WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL LEAD TO EARLY RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS, WE REQUEST THAT ZAIRIAN FORCES IN REGION WHERE STUDENTS ARE BEING HELD BE INSTRUCTED TO SUSPEND THEIR PATROLS AND LIMIT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE UNTIL STUDENTS RELEASED. WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF MOBUTU'S AND GOZ'S EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND HOPE ZAIRIANS WILL CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT TRIGGER REBELS TO HARM STUDENTS OR WHICH MIGHT THREATEN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IT APPEARS TO DEPT THAT, IN VIEW CURRENT PROBLEMS IN U.S.-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, DUTCH AMBASSADOR MIGHT BE BEST PERSON TO APPROACH GOZ. IF HE IS WILLING, SUGGEST HE SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH MOBUTU OR FONMIN. IF CHARGE FEELS HE CAN USEFULLY INTERVENE WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL, HE IS FREE TO DO SO.

6. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AMBASSADOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 146043

VANCE ALSO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH MOBUTU, BUT INITIAL APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE SOONEST, WITHOUT WAITING FOR VANCE'S ARRIVAL.

7. WHILE WE WILL NOTIFY PRP REPS THAT WE HAVE APPROACHED GOZ ON THIS MATTER, BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO INDICATE TO GOZ THAT WE ARE DOING THIS. WE ALSO EMPHATICALLY OPPOSE PUBLIC BROADCASTING OF APPEAL TO GOZ AT THIS TIME.

THIS WOULD ONLY ANTAGONIZE GOZ, CREATING FURTHER PROBLEMS
AND MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ANY COOPERATION

FROM IT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES' COMMENTS THIS ASPECT
OF PROBLEM. KISSINGER

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